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art by fernando_blanco	24	1995-FEB-05
colors by jordie_bellaire	48	1996-APR-07
letters by aditya_bidikar	36	1997-FEB-02
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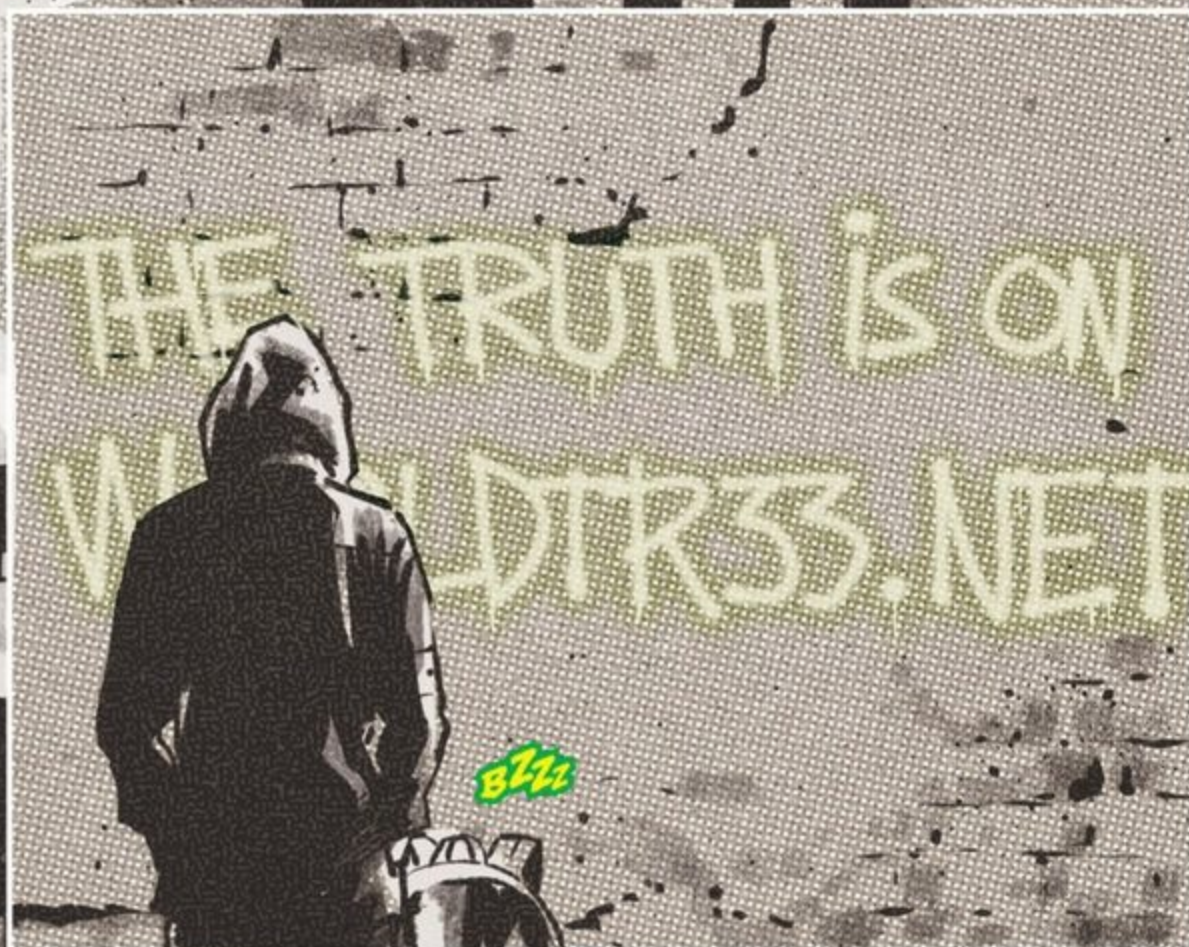
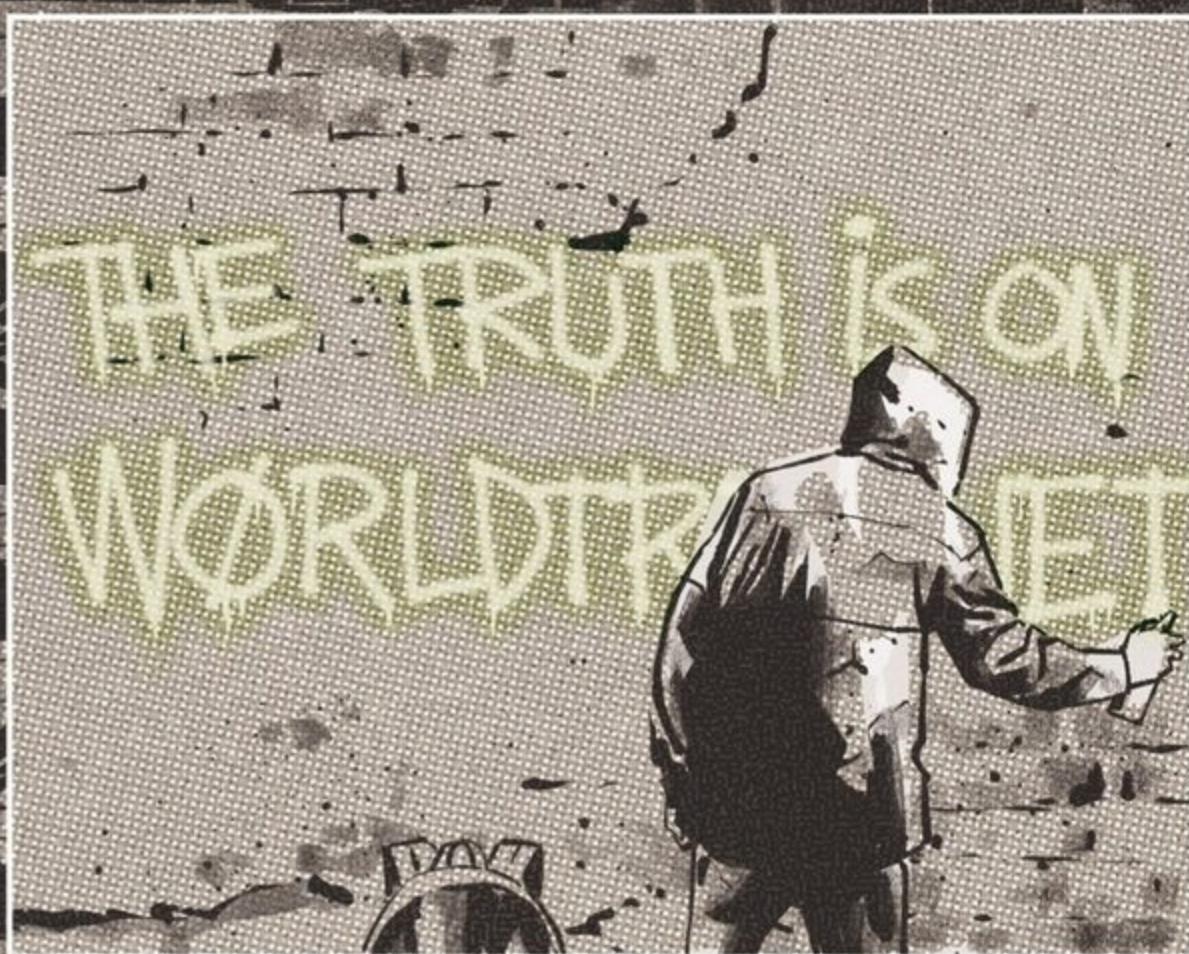
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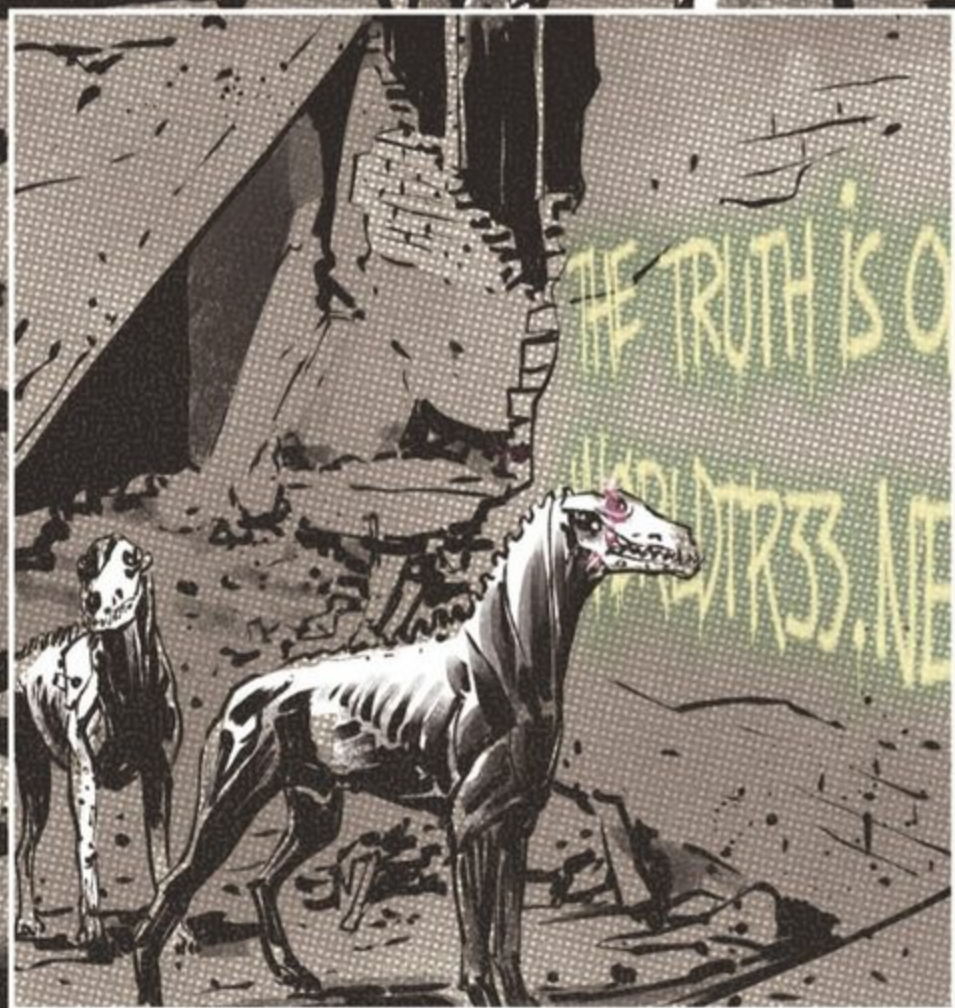
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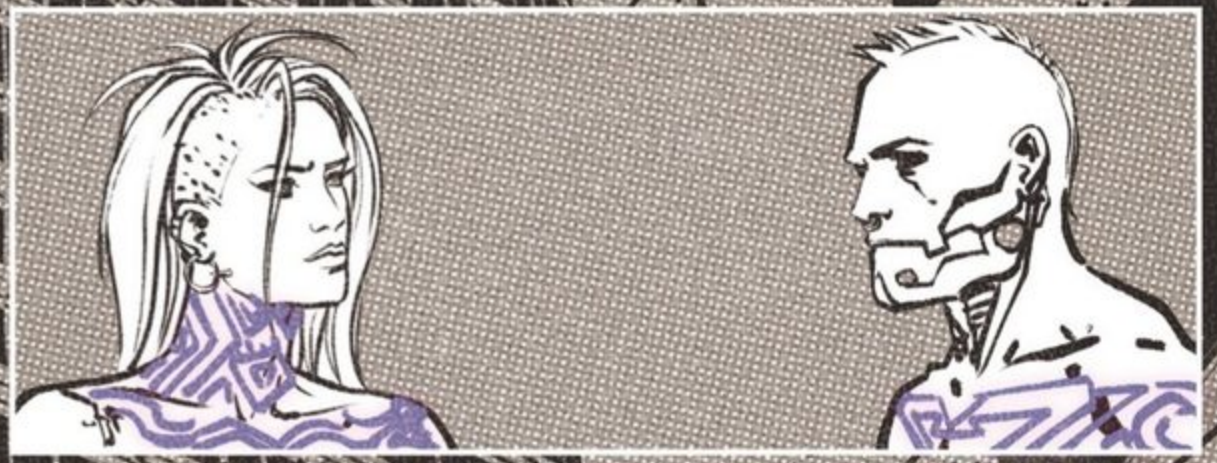
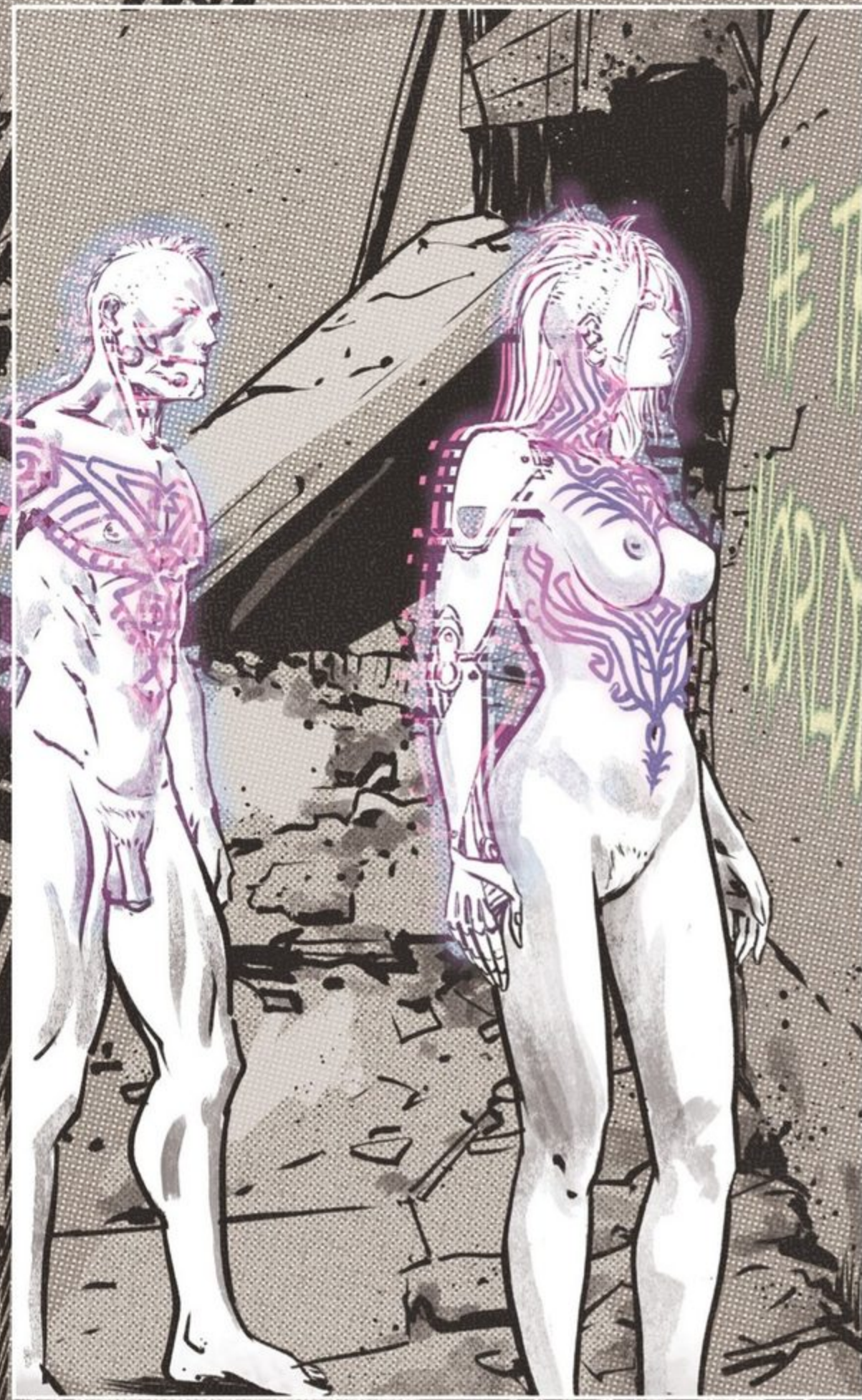
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ELLISON













HE'S MOVING,
CYA.

FEEL THAT,
SKIDS. RIGHT
UNDER ME.
SEE IT?

Whuh...
what
the--?



HUSH.

KING KOOPA
SAYS YOU'RE NO
ph34rscum.

I SAYS
YOU LOOK
ph34rscum.
I SAYS IT'S
SKETCH
YOU'VE GOT
TECHNOS.

I SAYS IT'S
SKETCH YOU'RE
CONNECTED.



WHAT ARE
YOU KIDS
WEARING?



LIKE
MY DUDS?
HOMO
MUCH?

LIKE YOU
CAN TALK WITH
THOSE LIPS.

ZIP IT!







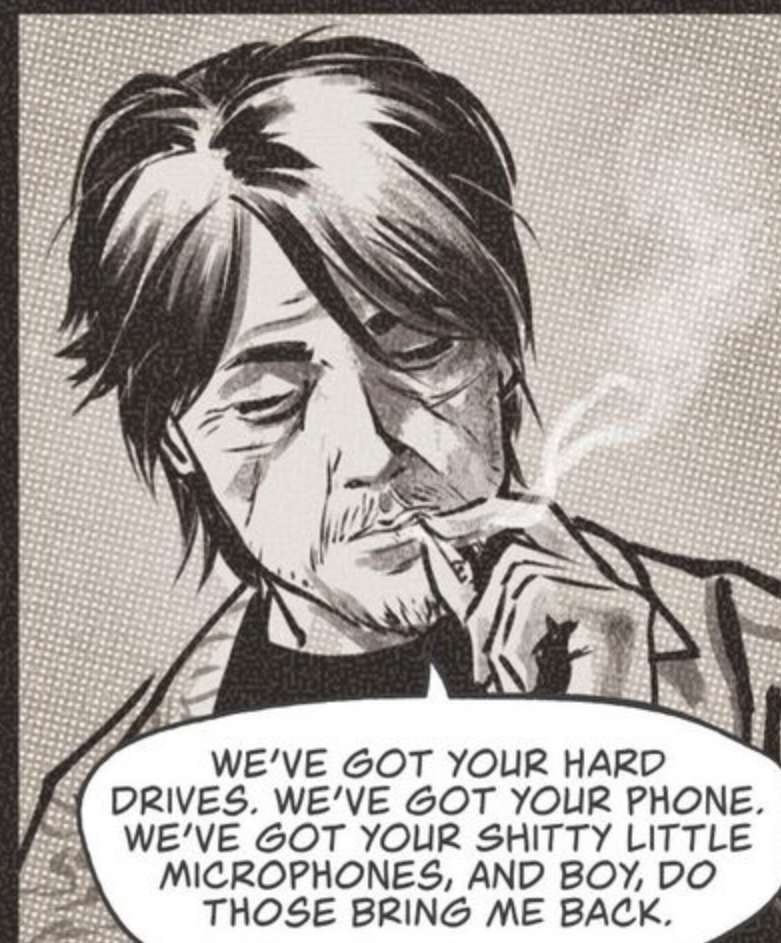


FUCK.
MY HEAD...



YEAH, THEY
ROUGHED YOU
UP PRETTY
GOOD, huh?

MY...MY HARD
DRIVES...WHERE
ARE...



WE'VE GOT YOUR HARD
DRIVES. WE'VE GOT YOUR PHONE.
WE'VE GOT YOUR SHITTY LITTLE
MICROPHONES, AND BOY, DO
THOSE BRING ME BACK.



GIVE THEM
TO ME.

CALM DOWN. YOU'RE FINE.
THE KIDS JUST GOT EXCITED.
THEY DON'T GET OUT
MUCH--AHAHAHA.

YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND...
WHAT'S ON
THOSE IS
IMPORTANT.



YOU REALLY
THINK I DON'T
UNDERSTAND?

WHERE
ARE WE?



MORLOCK TUNNELS,
BABY. THE SECRET
UNDERGROUND AT
THE END OF TIME.

WE'RE WHAT
HUMANITY TURNS
INTO IN THE
SHADOWS.

WHAT?



THE TIME MACHINE. OR LIKE, THE X-MEN. YOU KNOW? MORLOCKS. SEWER PEOPLE.

C'MON. I KNEW YOU WEREN'T THE BRIGHTEST, BUT THERE'S GOTTA BE *SOMETHING* COOKING UP THERE.

KIDS, COME APOLOGIZE.



CYANIDE DON'T APOLOGIZE.

CYA. STOP IT. TALK NORMAL.



HE THINKS HE'S SO FUCKING *TOUGH* TAKING YOU IN. IT'S CUTE, ISN'T IT? I'M THE WORST. I ENCOURAGE IT.

HE'S SECRETLY VERY SWEET. CAUGHT HIM READING POETRY TO HIS BOYFRIEND THE OTHER NIGHT.



SKIDS AIN'T MY *BOYFRIEND!* CYANIDE'S HIS OWN MAN.

Hush.



IS THE MAN HURT? I BROUGHT HIM SOME MEDICINE.

IS THAT *POT?*

HAHAHAHA! YEAH, MAN. IT'S GOOD SHIT, TOO.



THANK
YOU?



THE MEAN
ONE...DID HE...
HOW OLD
IS HE?

OLD ENOUGH.

HE'S
SIXTEEN.
CALLS
HIMSELF
CYANIDE.



I'M SKIDS.
I'M FIFTEEN.

YOU
SEEM
NICE.

THANK YOU.



OKAY, CLEAR OUT.
I GOTTA TALK HEAVY
SHIT WITH OUR
GUEST.



IF YOU KILL
HIM, I GET TO
WATCH. YOU
PROMISED.



YEAH,
OKAY.



I'M PROBABLY
NOT GOING TO
KILL YOU, BY
THE WAY.

Oh, GOOD.



HOW DOES A
SIXTEEN-YEAR-
OLD KNOW
WHAT FAMILY
GUY IS?



OH, HE DIDN'T. THE
QUAGMIRE SHIT?
THE *GIGGITIES*?

HE DID.



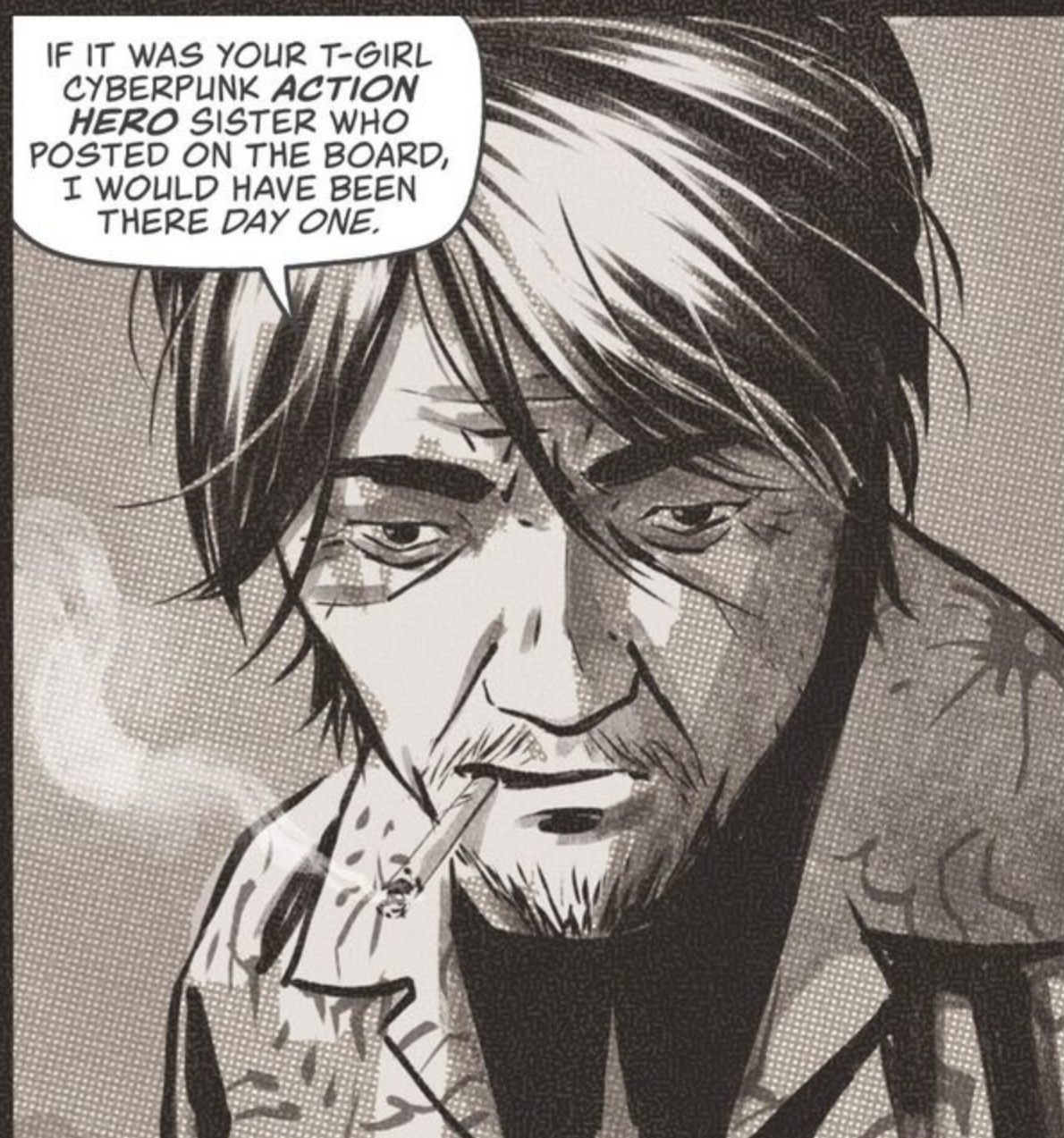
AAHAHAHAHAHAHA

I FUCKING
LOVE IT.



I REALLY DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHAT'S
HAPPENING.

NO KIDDING.
THAT'S WHY
I WROTE YOU
OFF, KID.



IF IT WAS YOUR T-GIRL
CYBERPUNK ACTION
HERO SISTER WHO
POSTED ON THE BOARD,
I WOULD HAVE BEEN
THERE DAY ONE.



OR EVEN
THE BADASS
PODCASTER
GIRL. THE ONE
IN THE VIDEO.
WHAT WAS
HER NAME?



FAUSTA.



YEAH, MAN. SHE WAS GREAT. BUT YOU'RE JUST A GUY. NOT EVEN A PARTICULARLY **SMART** GUY, FAR AS I REMEMBER.



IN FACT, I REMEMBER YOU **FUCKING** IT ALL UP RIGHT WHEN IT COUNTED.



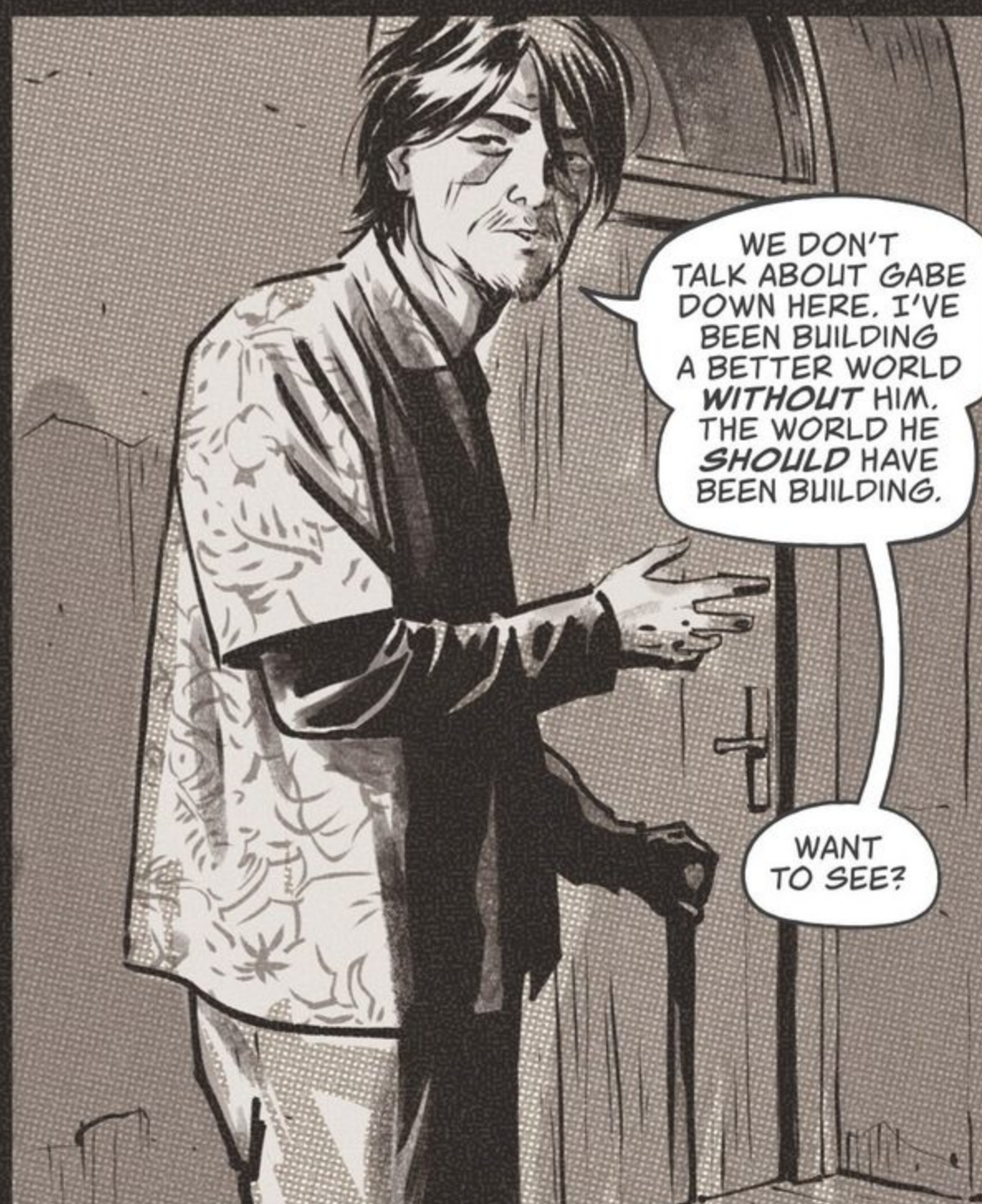
BUT YOU'RE **PERSISTENT**. SO, I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE FUCK YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING WITH MY WEBSITE.



YOU'RE...YOU'RE ONE OF **THEM**. ONE OF THE ORIGINAL **worldtr33** GROUP.



I'M THE LAST OF THEM STANDING.





WE'VE GOT, LIKE, TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE DOWN HERE. MAYBE CLOSER TO LIKE, ONE-SEVENTY. I DON'T KEEP TRACK AS MUCH AS I USED TO.

IT STARTED BACK WITH JUST ME PICKING OFF THE FOLKS WANDERING INTO THE CITY LIMITS, LOOKING FOR FOOD. BUT NOW WE'VE GOT A *COMMUNITY*.

AND THERE'S, LIKE, FORTY TEENAGERS NOW. SOME OF THEM WERE EVEN *BORN* DOWN HERE. THEY DON'T REMEMBER THE WORLD THAT WAS.



BUT IT'S THE SAME DEAL FOR EVERYONE. I TEACH THEM HOW TO CODE AND HOW TO MAINTAIN THE HARDWARE, AND IN EXCHANGE, I FEED THEM.

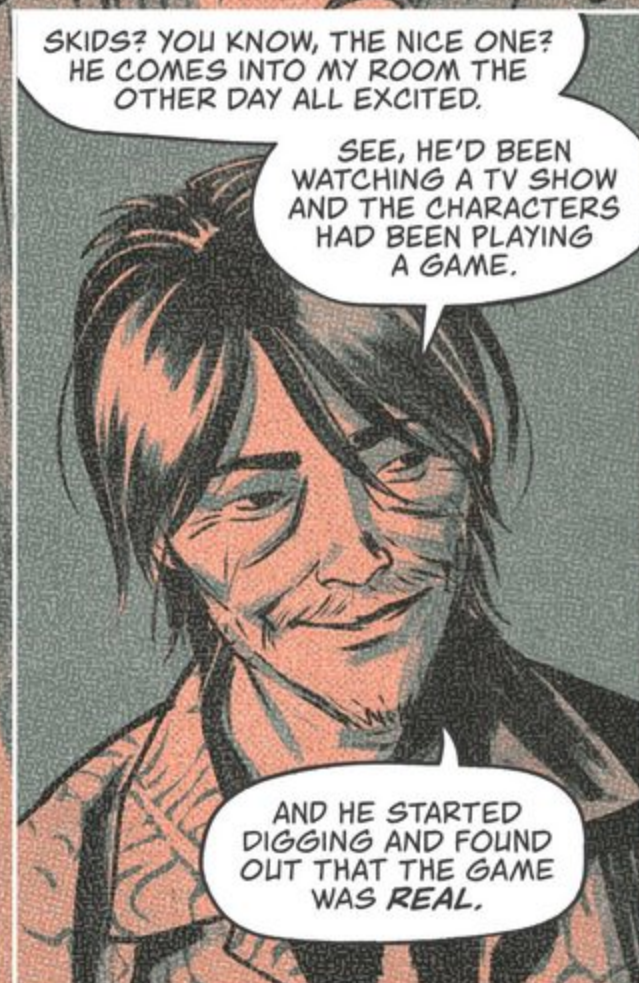


BODY AND SOUL.



WHAT ARE THEY CODING?

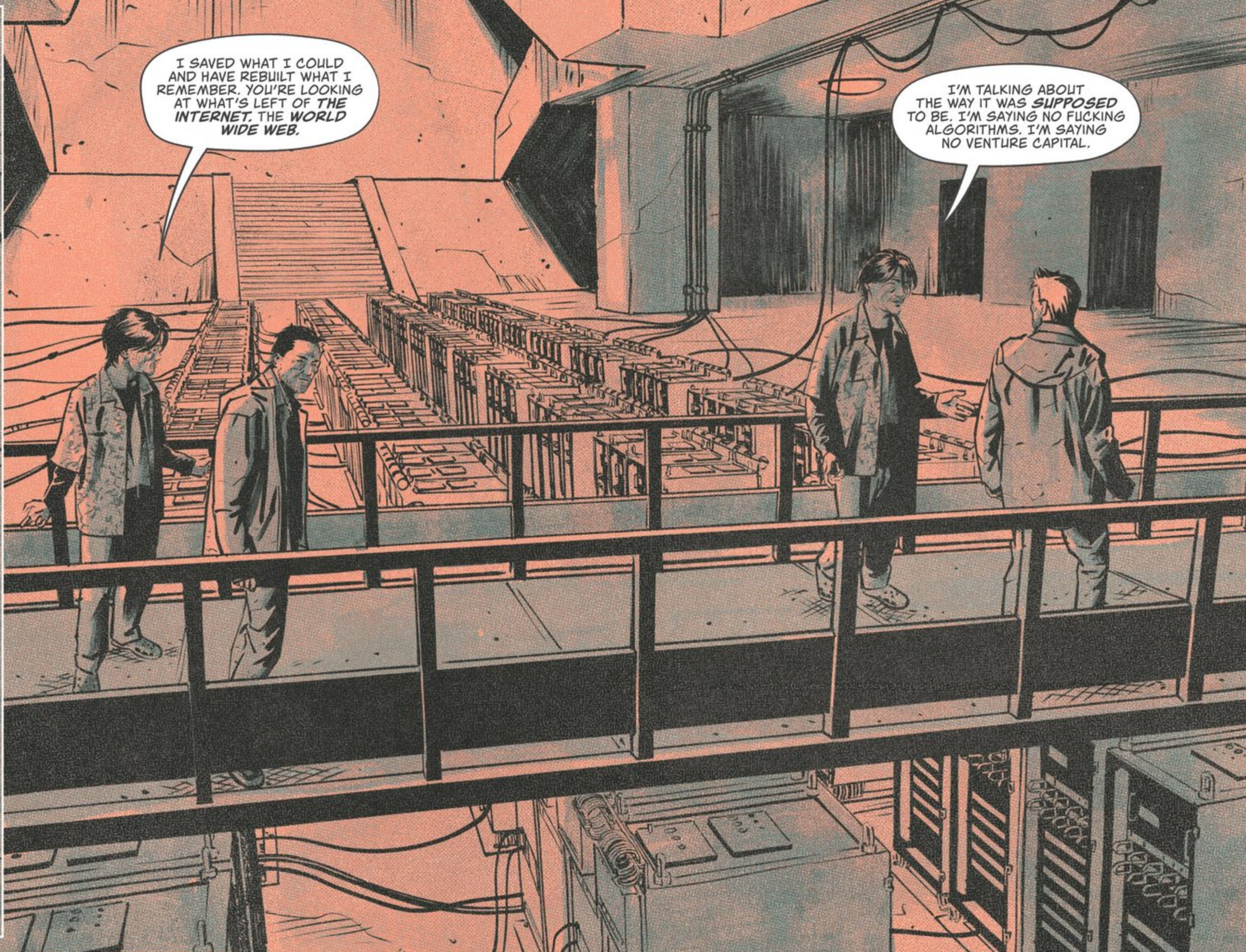
YOU REALLY AREN'T TOO BRIGHT, ARE YOU, KID?



SKIDS? YOU KNOW, THE NICE ONE? HE COMES INTO MY ROOM THE OTHER DAY ALL EXCITED.

SEE, HE'D BEEN WATCHING A TV SHOW AND THE CHARACTERS HAD BEEN PLAYING A GAME.

AND HE STARTED DIGGING AND FOUND OUT THAT THE GAME WAS REAL.



I SAVED WHAT I COULD AND HAVE REBUILT WHAT I REMEMBER. YOU'RE LOOKING AT WHAT'S LEFT OF THE INTERNET. THE WORLD WIDE WEB.

I'M TALKING ABOUT THE WAY IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE. I'M SAYING NO FUCKING ALGORITHMS. I'M SAYING NO VENTURE CAPITAL.



I'M SAYING THE *GOOD* INTERNET. THE INTERNET AS IT WAS MEANT TO BE. I'M SAYING WHAT'S LEFT OF HUMAN HISTORY, KNOWLEDGE, AND CULTURE AT OUR FUCKING FINGERTIPS.



DIDN'T THE INTERNET GET US INTO ALL THIS MESS?

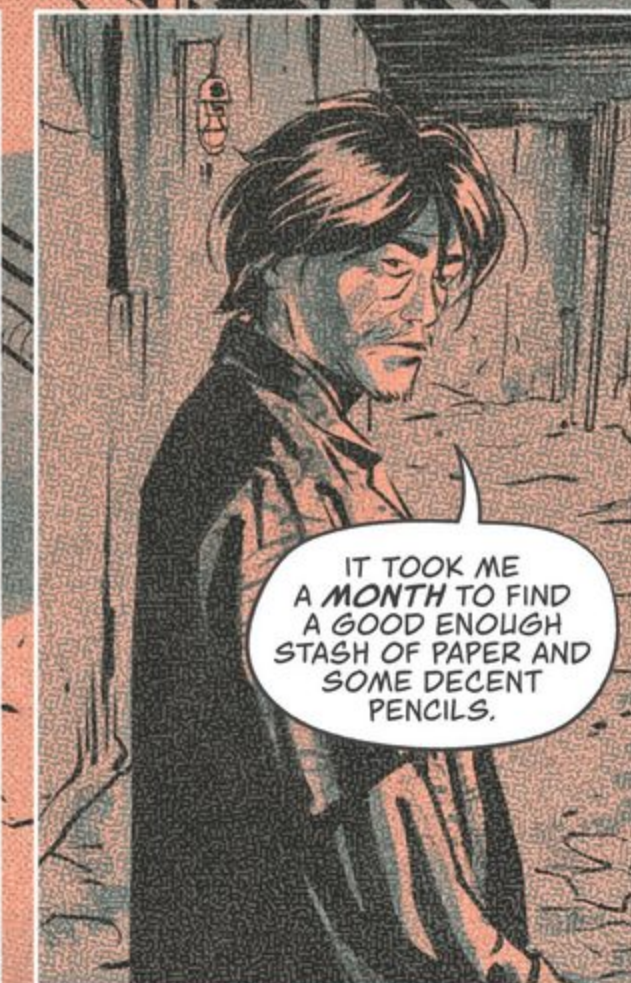


"AND IT WAS THIS FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD KID, TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER THE END OF ALL HUMAN CIVILIZATION. A KID WHO HAS NO LIVING MEMORY OF THE WORLD THAT WAS.

"AND HE'S PRACTICALLY SHAKING AS HE EXPLAINS THE CONCEPT OF *DUNGEONS & DRAGONS* TO ME."



Y'KNOW? *BEGGING* ME TO TRY AND FIND ENOUGH PAPER AND SOME PENCILS SO HE CAN RUN A CAMPAIGN FOR HIS FRIENDS.



IT TOOK ME A MONTH TO FIND A GOOD ENOUGH STASH OF PAPER AND SOME DECENT PENCILS.



AND THEN AFTER ALL THAT, I BOOTED UP AND JAILBROKE AN OLD KINDLE, AND LOADED THE FUCKER UP WITH *LORD OF THE RINGS* AND EVERY *DUNGEON MASTER'S GUIDE* AND *MONSTER MANUAL* THAT EVER EXISTED.



THAT'S WHY.

IT'S ALL OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE. IT'S EVERY GOOD IDEA WE EVER HAD AT OUR FINGERTIPS, TO GROW BY AND TO LEARN BY.

IT'S GOOD. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN GOOD.

IT SHOULD EXIST.

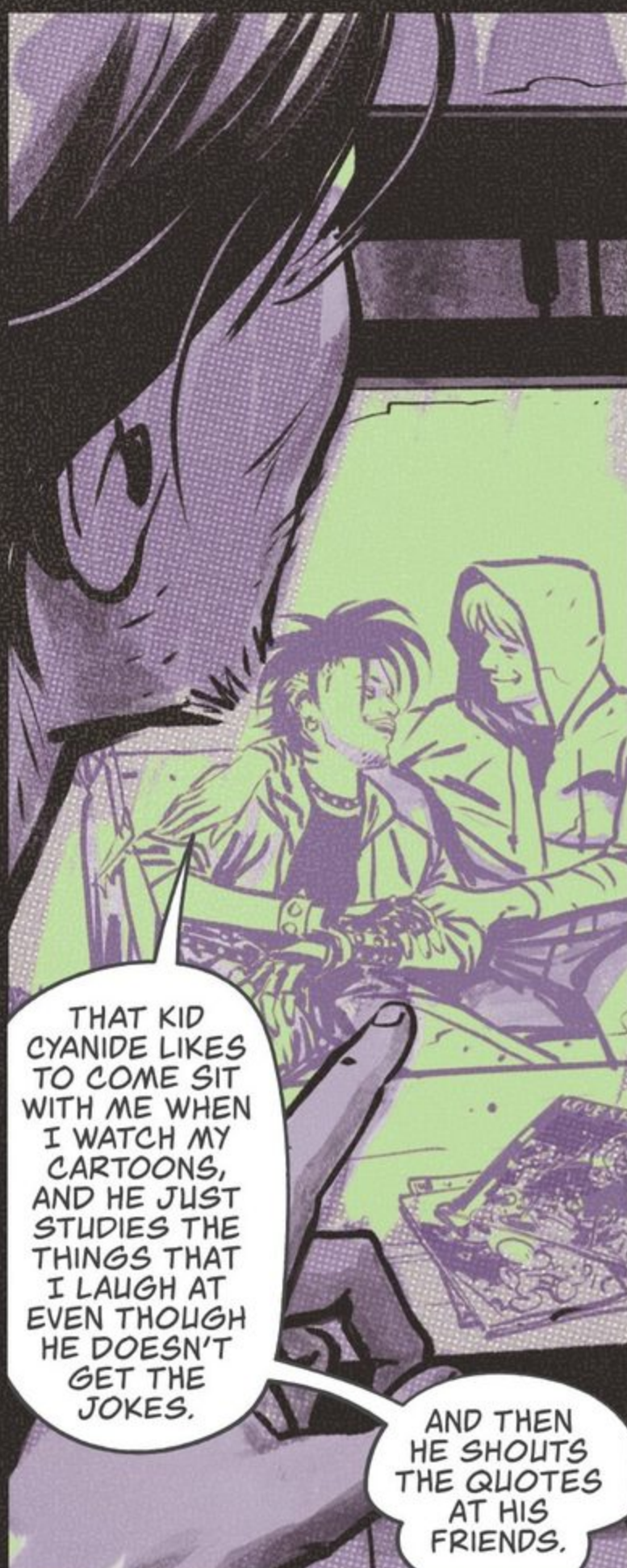


I'M NOT EVEN THAT KIND OF NERD AND IT STILL GETS ME CHOKED UP, MAN. I MEAN, LOOK AT THEM.

THEY'RE COMBING THROUGH ALL OF HUMAN CULTURE AND FINDING THE STORIES THAT MEAN THE MOST TO THEM.



AND THEY'RE FUCKING WITH FASHION AND GENDER AND LANGUAGE AND HACKING IT APART AND PUTTING THEMSELVES TOGETHER.



THAT KID
CYANIDE LIKES
TO COME SIT
WITH ME WHEN
I WATCH MY
CARTOONS,
AND HE JUST
STUDIES THE
THINGS THAT
I LAUGH AT
EVEN THOUGH
HE DOESN'T
GET THE
JOKES.

AND THEN
HE SHOULDS
THE QUOTES
AT HIS
FRIENDS.



HE'S A LITTLE
SPAZZO ANXIOUS
NERD KID LIKE WE
ALL KNEW A HUNDRED
OF IN HIGH SCHOOL,
AND **THAT STILL
EXISTS.**

I'M GOING TO SHOW
HIM DEADPOOL SOON, AND
RUIN EVERYONE'S LIVES.
Hah. OR RICK AND MORTY.



LIKE, A FEW
DECADES AFTER
THE END OF TIME,
SOME SHITHEAD
LITTLE TEENAGER
WITH GREASY HAIR
IS GOING TO BE
NARUTO-RUNNING
DOWN A HALLWAY
SHOUTING,
"PICKLE RIIICK!"



TELL ME
THAT ISN'T FUCKING
BEAUTIFUL. TELL ME
THAT ISN'T FUCKING
MIRACULOUS.

YOU TALK
ABOUT SAVING
THE WORLD.
I ALREADY
DID.

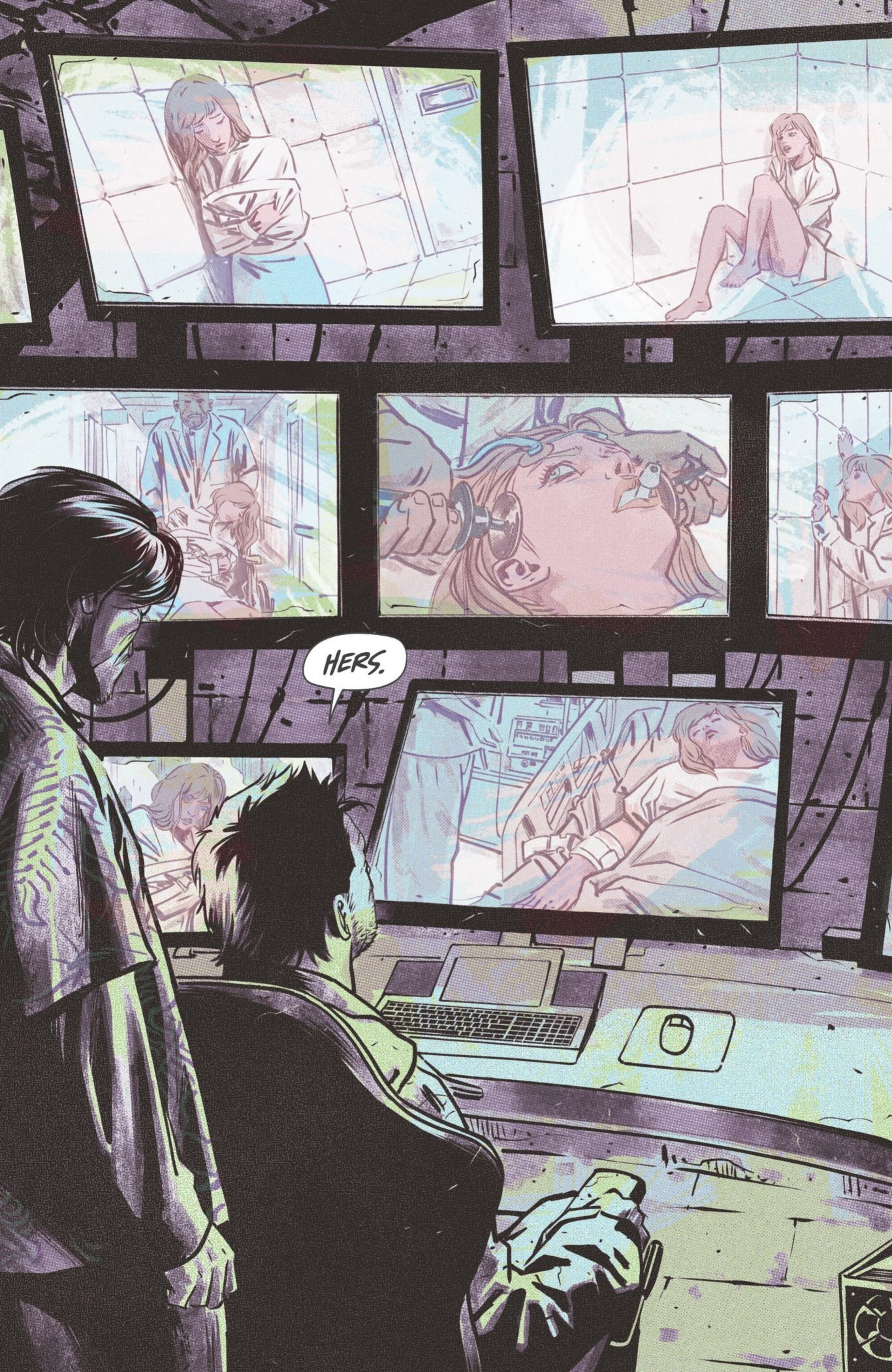


IT'S
RIGHT
THERE,
MAN.

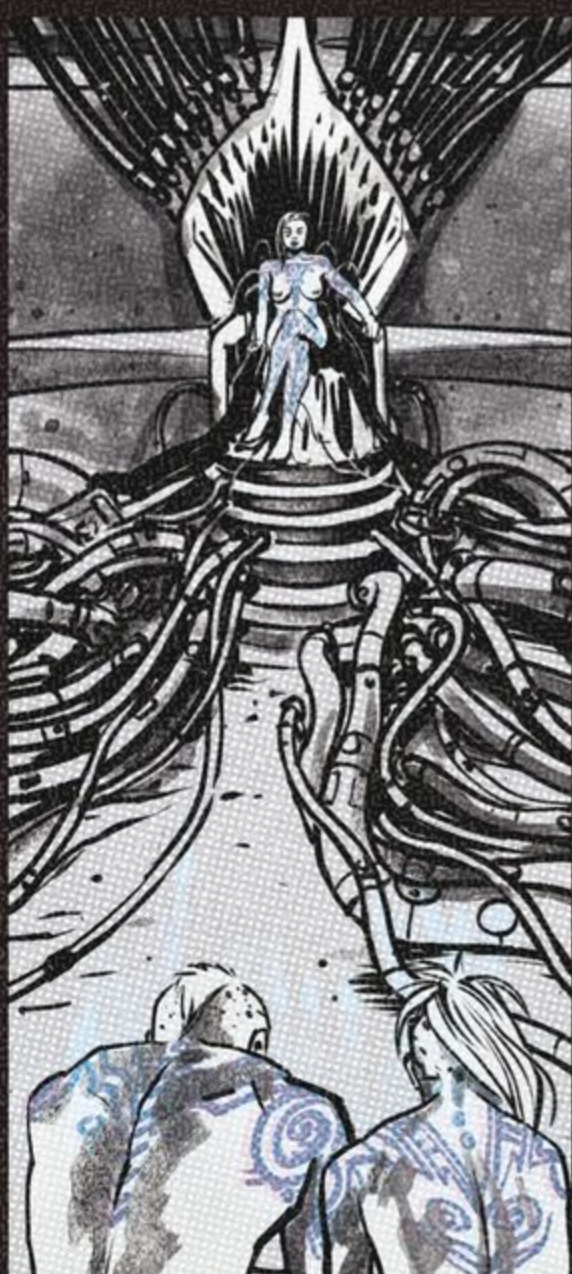
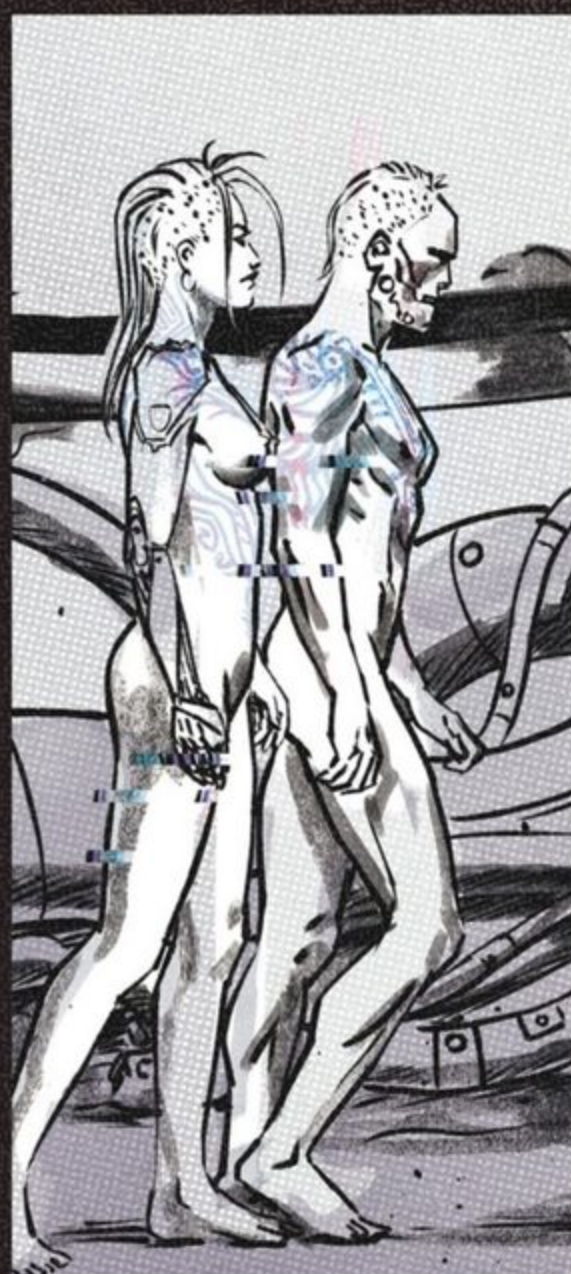
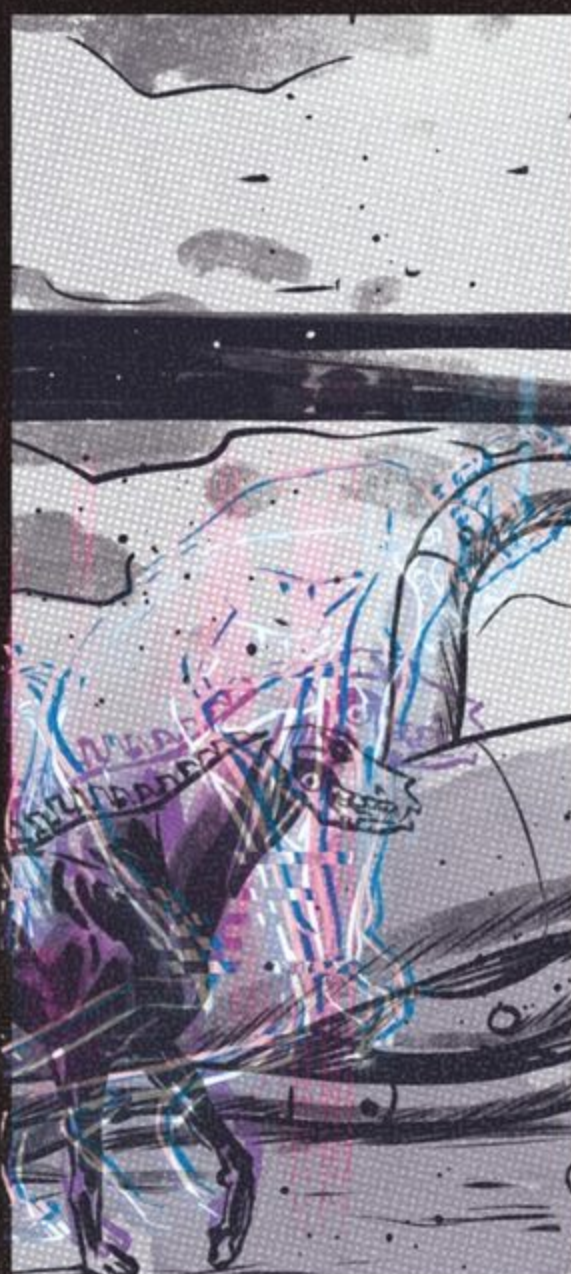


IT'S RIGHT
THERE.





HERS.





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CHRISSY WILLIAMS • LAUREN KNIGHT • SOFIE DODGSON • BECCA CAREY

Golden Rage

MOTHER
KNOWS
BEST

AVAILABLE
NOW

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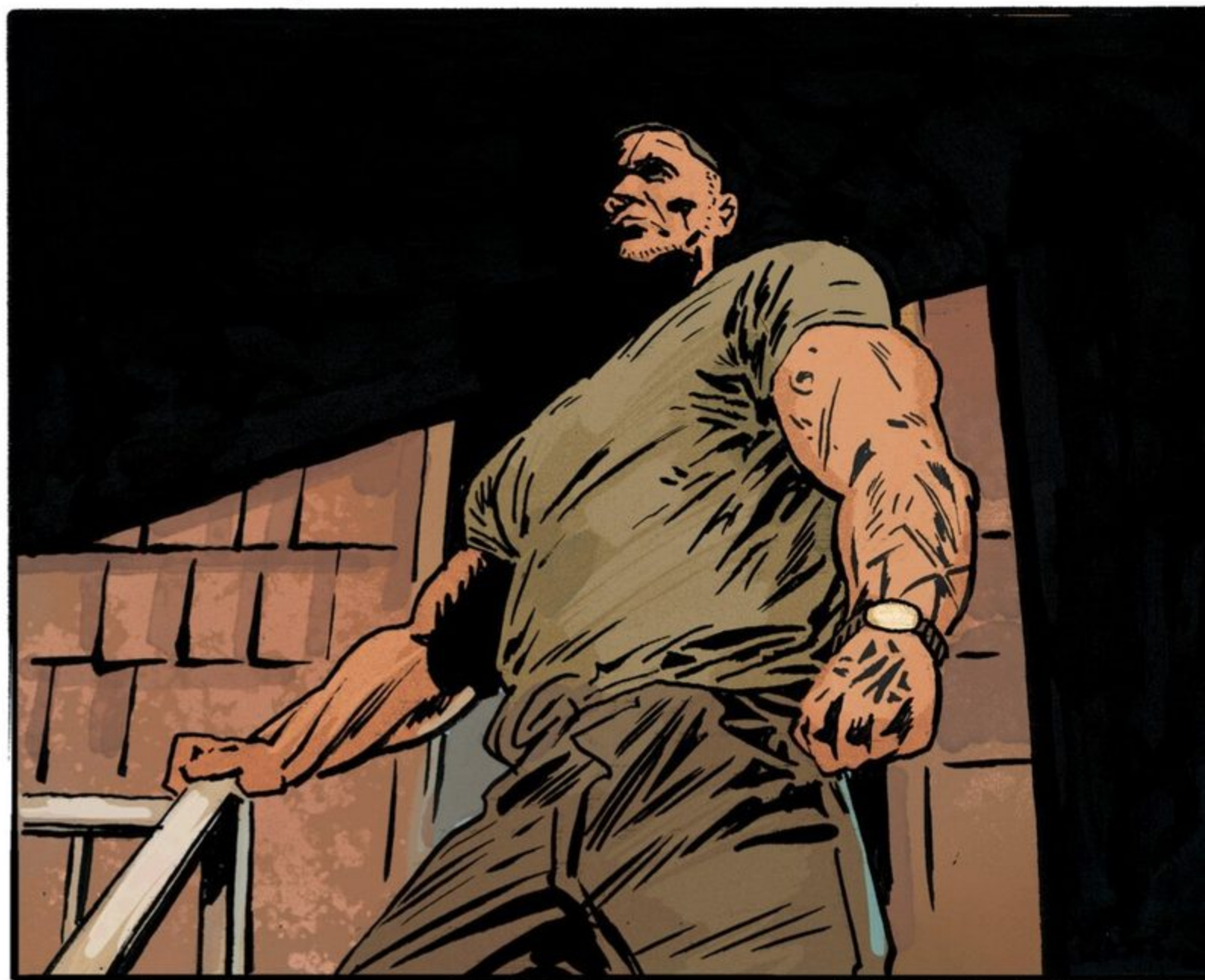
Exquisite Corpses™

**SNEAK
PREVIEW**



**MAY
2025**

TYNION WALSH BELLAIRE CAREY





I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS MYSELF FROM THE START. APOLOGIES FOR THAT.

MY CHILDREN HAVE BEEN TELLING ME TO **DELEGATE** FOR YEARS, AND I THINK IT'S A CROCK OF SHIT.



AND AFTER YOU BROKE OUR LAST EMISSARY'S ARM IN **SIX PLACES**, THEY TOLD ME I SHOULD CHOOSE SOMEONE ELSE.

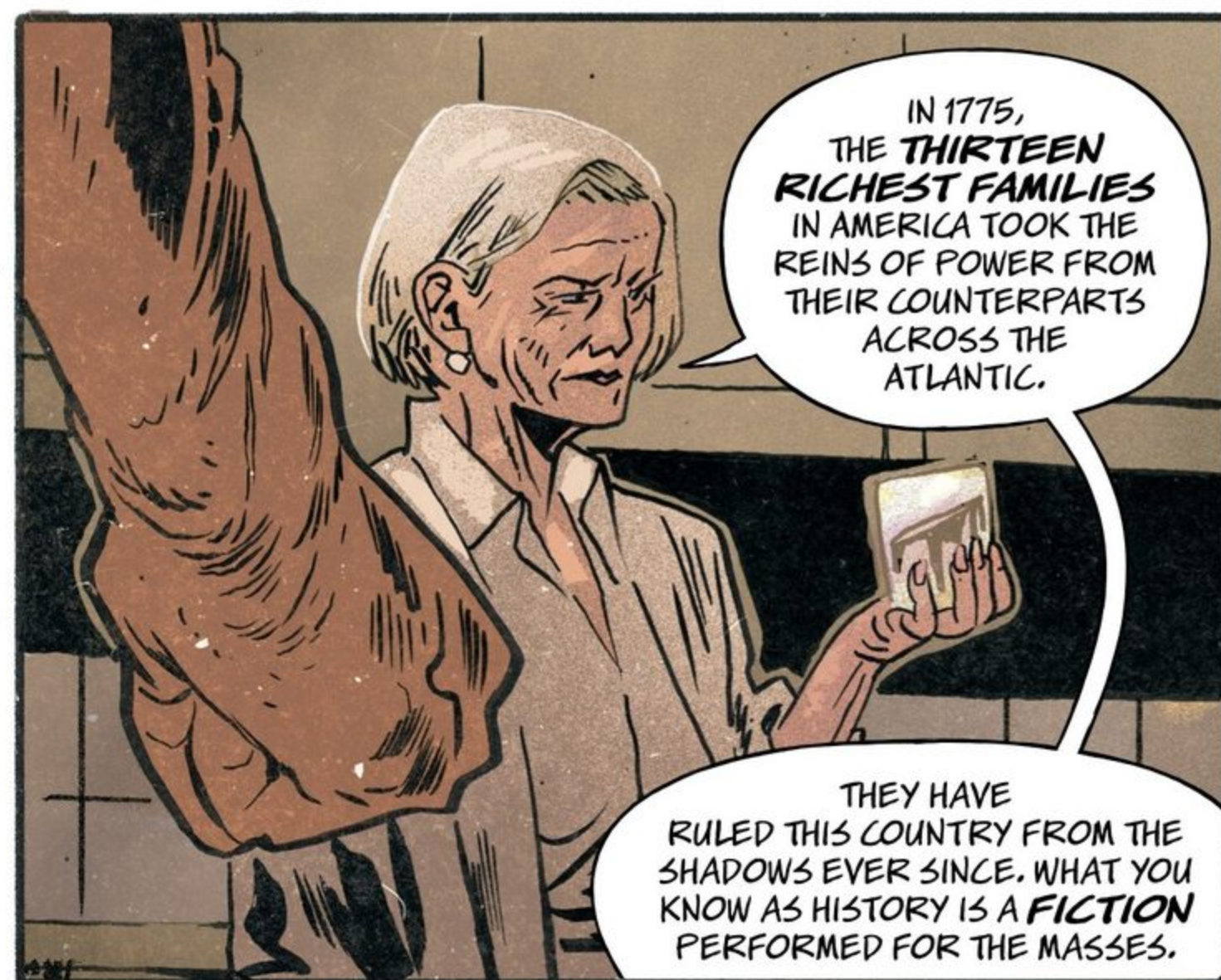
BUT I GUESS I'M STUBBORN.



NOT SURE WHAT MORE THERE IS TO SAY, MA'AM.



I'M GOING TO TELL YOU A FEW SECRETS ABOUT HOW THE WORLD **REALLY** WORKS.



IN 1775, THE **THIRTEEN RICHEST FAMILIES** IN AMERICA TOOK THE REINS OF POWER FROM THEIR COUNTERPARTS ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.

THEY HAVE RULED THIS COUNTRY FROM THE SHADOWS EVER SINCE. WHAT YOU KNOW AS HISTORY IS A **FICTION** PERFORMED FOR THE MASSES.



MY FAMILY ONCE RULED **MASSACHUSETTS**. THAT'S AS GOOD AS YOU'LL GET FOR A NAME FOR ME, BY THE WAY.

CHEERS.



RULING DIDN'T COME EASY. IT TOOK NEARLY A **CENTURY** OF BICKERING AND WARFARE TO FIGURE OUT WHICH FAMILY RULES OVER THE REST.

SO EVERY FIVE YEARS, WE PLAY A **GAME** ON HALLOWEEN.



IT STARTS THE YEAR BEFORE...

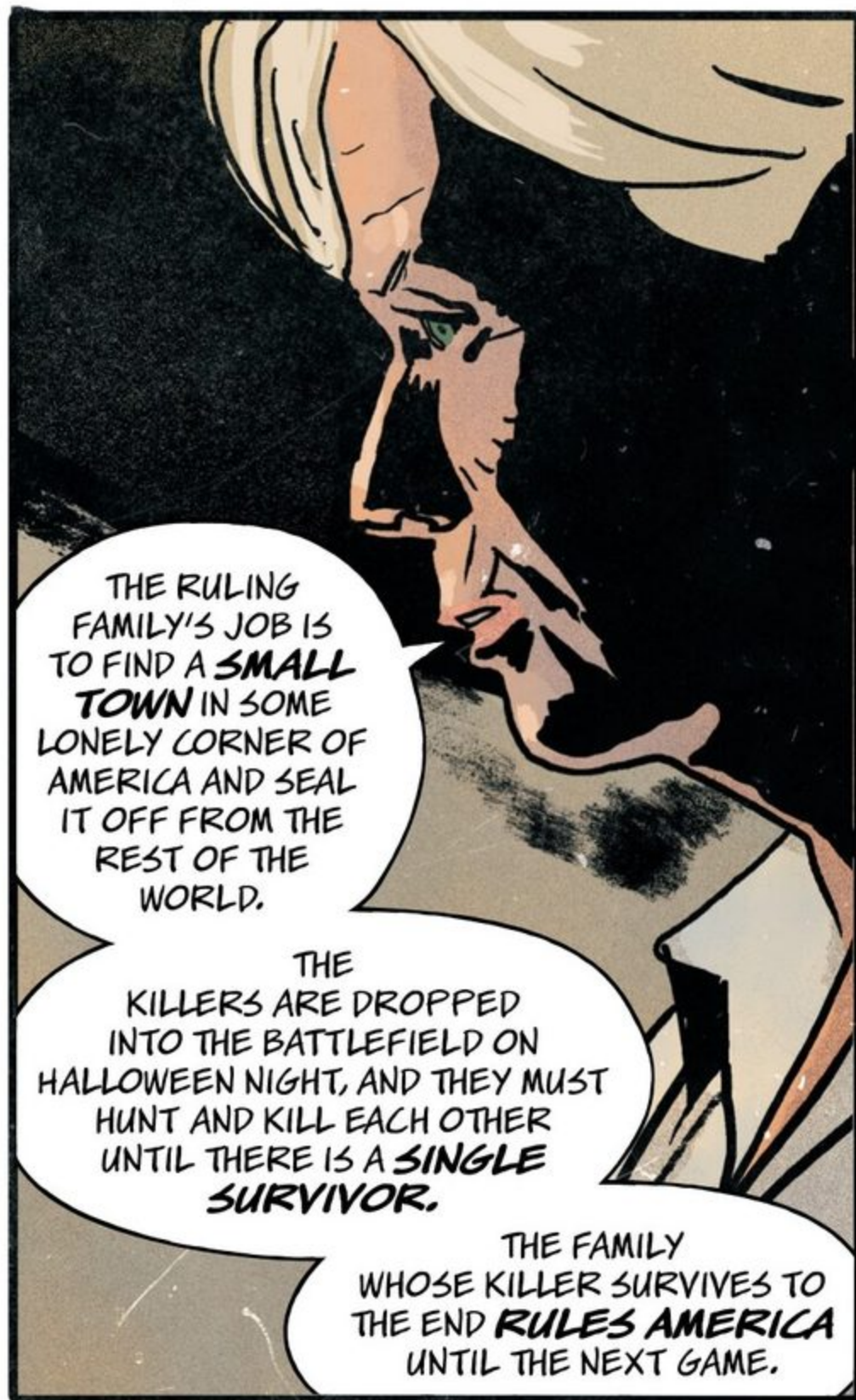
EACH COMPETING FAMILY DRAWS ONE OF **TWELVE CARDS**, REPRESENTING A WEAPON USED IN EVERY GAME SINCE THE FIRST.



AND THEN WE HAVE A YEAR TO FIND SOMEBODY TO **WIELD** THAT WEAPON. SOMEBODY DANGEROUS.

A KILLER.

YES. A KILLER.



THE RULING FAMILY'S JOB IS TO FIND A **SMALL TOWN** IN SOME LONELY CORNER OF AMERICA AND SEAL IT OFF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD.

THE KILLERS ARE DROPPED INTO THE BATTLEFIELD ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT, AND THEY MUST HUNT AND KILL EACH OTHER UNTIL THERE IS A **SINGLE SURVIVOR**.

THE FAMILY WHOSE KILLER SURVIVES TO THE END **RULES AMERICA** UNTIL THE NEXT GAME.



IT'S A **GARISH** TRADITION, REALLY. I'VE HATED IT SINCE I WAS A GIRL. AND IT'S ONLY GOTTEN MORE TWISTED OVER THE YEARS.

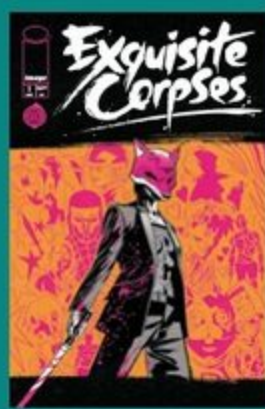
MY COUNTERPARTS... THE OTHER FAMILIES... WELL, THEY AREN'T **NICE** PEOPLE.



YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND...IT GETS **UGLY**.

CONTINUED IN
EXQUISITE CORPSES #1
MAY 2025

MAY AT IMAGE



Get ready. **Exquisite Corpses** is James Tynion IV, Michael Walsh and a dangerous, elite crew making a hostile takeover of your imagination. Every five years, the sinister ruling families behind America drop champions into a small town to fight it out and decide who'll rule America. This is big concept on every level. "*Battle Royale* meets *The Purge*" is as basic as it gets. It is not basic. It is excessive and I applaud. You need to get into this now, so you get bragging rights when it takes over the world.



Taking over the world is just the beginning. What to do when you *have* it? What are you willing to do to *keep* it? Aubrey Sitterson and Jed Dougherty's **Free Planet** is about that, through a sci-fi filter. With a Chaykin-esque devotion to storytelling density, this recalls aspects of *Dune*, *Warhammer 40,000* and *Firefly*, and drills down to its theme. Honestly, books about freedom and what you're willing to do to keep it feel both timely and right at home at Image. Freedom is what Image is for.



Creative freedom connects interestingly to **Dark Honor**, which started with K.S. Bruce and Brian DeCubellis wrapping their second film together, *Trust*, just as Covid hit. They wanted their third to circle a heightened-reality gang war set in those bleak days in New York. Films weren't ready. Comics are. Adapted by Ethan Sacks [*A Haunted Girl*] and drawn by Fico Ossio, this is a post-*John Wick* crime story with the backdrop of that recent shared horror.



With **Sleep**, I'm interested in how little Zander Cannon [*Top 10*, *Kaijumax*] chooses to share. It's a classic setup - Jonathan Reason falls asleep and wakes up to find awful events occurred in his absence. It's a fascinatingly tense detective story where the detective already knows the murderer and has to work out how they can stop them killing again. Wonderful storytelling, a great eye for small-town characters and a limited palette with spot reds: this is pure comics.



Over at Skybound, **Blood & Thunder** gives big classic 2000 AD energy, making me think of all the bits of *Judge Dredd*, *Rogue Trooper* and *Strontium Dog* that had us all screaming in British playgrounds. Blood [the bounty-hunter lady with anger issues] and Thunder [her talkative but ethical gun] get into trouble and look just fantastic doing it. Kirkman's concept developed with Benito Cereno and E.J. Su [*Tech Jacket*] gives high-kinetic high-caliber thrill power.

Kieron Gillen writes **The Power Fantasy**.

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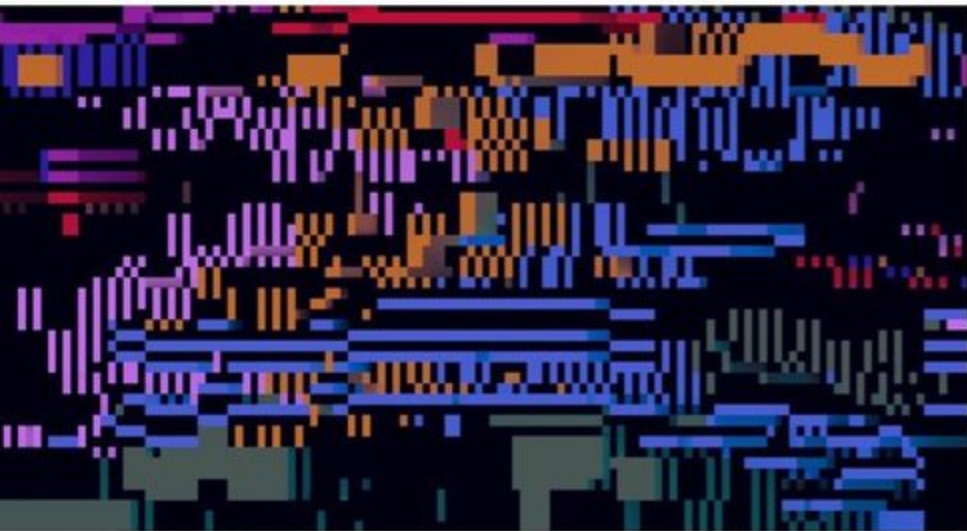
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COVER ART BY FERNANDO BLANCO



RATED M / MATURE

ISSUE 14



SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...
THIS MONSTER!"

